Economic Affairs Interim Committee April 14th, 2016
Rural Montana's Use of Broadband and Wireless: Struggles and Possible Solutions





Mike Kilgore, CEO/General Manager



Michael E. Candelaria, General Manager

Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

(Including Subsidiaries)

- Incorporated in 1950
- Headquarters In Scobey
- 201 Full Time Employees
- We provide Voice, Broadband, Wireless and Video services over a service area of approximately 15,000 Sq. Miles in NE and South Central Montana including the Ft. Peck and Crow Indian Reservations.
- Providing Cellular service since 1995
 - CDMA
 - UMTS
 - LTE
 - 115 3G Cell Sites
- 64 4G Cell Sites

NEMONT/ TELEPHONE CO-OP INC. /

- Designated as Eligible Telecommunications
 Carrier (ETC) by MT PSC.
- Nationwide voice, data and messaging roaming

Mid-Rivers Wireless

- Providing cellular services since 1997
- Cover approx. 10,000 square miles in Eastern and Central MT
- Most of this area was previously UNSERVED
- Only cellular signal available to much of this area today
- Designated as Eligible
 Telecommunications Carrier (ETC)
 by MT PSC
- Nationwide voice roaming
- Nationwide text roaming

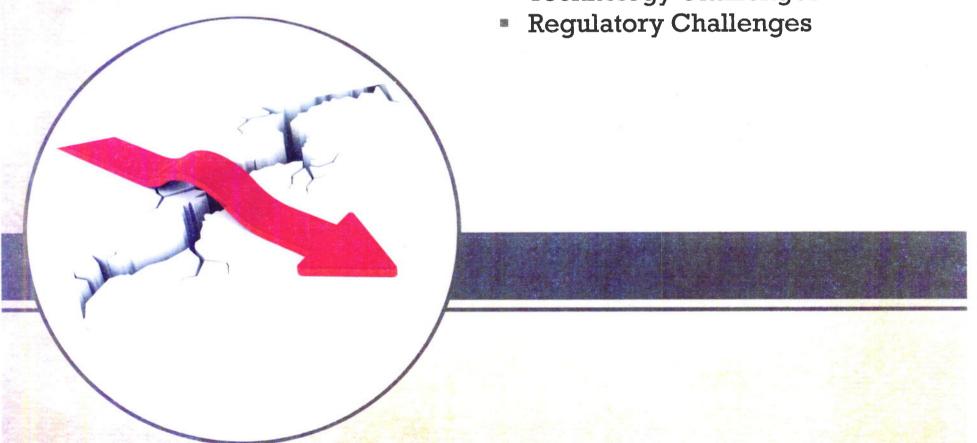


- Nationwide data roaming
- Provide CDMA/3G/4G LTE





Technology Challenges



Density Challenges



- Montana Population Density ~ 7 People/Sq. Mile
- On a National Level the Population Density is ~ 87.4
 People per square mile.
- In Eastern Montana the Population Density is less than 1 person per square mile.
- Aging and declining population in many parts of rural Montana.
- Bottom line is that there are many miles to cover, and so few people to serve.
- This translates into fewer people to pay for these costly communication networks of the 21st Century.
 They are expensive to build (Capex) and expensive to maintain (Opex)
- Without some form of "support", it is un-economic to serve Rural Montana.

